Elk Ridge City Urban Deer Control Plan

COR #:

City: Elk Ridge City

City Contact Information:

Main Contact: Jared Peterson
              (801) 850-7661
              JaredP@elkridgecity.org

Address for Correspondence:

Elk Ridge City Offices: 80 Park Drive, Elk Ridge, Ut 84651

Summary of Justification for Action:

Over the last several years Elk Ridge has seen a big increase in the deer populations. From a safety standpoint, we have experienced an increase of vehicle vs deer, deer vs pets, and deer vs people encounters. On average we experience 4-10 deer road kills every month, several of which result in the animal being injured, reported and dispatched after the accident. Last summer we had the report of several pet encounters, some of which were fatal for the pets. We have had several person vs deer encounters that luckily have not resulted in major injury. It is also apparent that the deer have lost their natural fear of people, allowing the encounters to be closer and more frequent. We would like to begin working with the DWR to manage the deer and bring the resident herd to safe levels. Our goal is not to eliminate the deer, but to bring and manage them to safe levels.

Estimated Deer Population:

We have had (2) counts of the deer population (summer of 2021 and 2022). The numbers averaged in at about 375 deer. Both if these were done with a drone flying a grid over the city.

Population Goal:

Our goal would be to bring the resident herd, within the city limits, to a reasonably safe level. In working with the DWR and other research we believe that population to be about 200 deer.

Proposed Methods of Management:

1. Trapping: This method would be done by city approved mitigation personnel and with permission of the property owner. The DWR has offered some traps. These would be live / bait traps. If effective, we would purchase or build more. The deer caught in these traps would be selectively put down. No animals would be relocated. This method would be allowed only during the mitigation time frame.
2. Suppressed weapons / archery: This method would be done by city approved mitigation personnel and with permission of the property owner. If conditions allow, the use of

weapons could be utilized. A strict list of persons, and in strict application based on conditions normally reserved for larger land parcels, following all applicable laws. This method would be allowed only during the mitigation time frame.

3. Fencing and barriers: We encourage the use of fencing as a tool for property owners to prevent property damage from the deer. This tool could be further implemented to manage deer throughout city and to help keep or cull the deer back into the wild. This method would be encouraged at all times and not limited by any mitigation time frame.

Requirements placed by DWR:

1. Mitigation efforts will only take place during the month of August.
2. Protocols will be placed for record keeping. Record the date, time, method of removal, biological samples, list of mitigation personnel, and donation.
3. Biological samples to be turned into DWR within 1 week of collection.
4. City will maintain and manage a donation list.
5. DWR will provide or approve paperwork for the donation transfer.
6. DWR will set the limits of age and gender ratio to be removed.

Legal Requirements:

Elk Ridge has implemented the following:

4-2A-2-TT: Harassment of Wildlife: The feeding of deer, elk, moose, and turkeys are prohibited within Elk Ridge City Boundaries. Touching, teasing, or the intentional disruption of wildlife is considered harassment and is prohibited. Hunting of wildlife is prohibited in Elk Ridge City. Wildlife mitigation by law enforcement, authorized animal control, and state wildlife personnel is allowed. Wildlife mitigation must be conducted in accordance with City and State code by those given authority. The trapping and removal of rodents, skunks, raccoons are allowed.

DWR and the State of Utah has implemented the following:

Administrative Rule R657-65 Urban Deer Control

Approval Signatures:

_____

     Elk Ridge City Mayor

_____

     Elk Ridge City Recorder